

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

January 18, 2023

Mission Statement:

The Holden Community Garden Committee is a volunteer organization working to provide and support Holden residents, individually and collectively, to grow food, flowers, fruits, and herbs on town land including the redeveloped property on Highland Street. Our efforts will enable residents to enjoy the beauty of our town while developing a sense of community through cooperative action, learning about sustainable and environmentally conscious gardening as well as ethical harvesting.

The Holden Community Garden Committee also exists to foster the education of the children of Holden through the support of community gardens in local schools and community groups. These gardens will help to develop the appreciation of future generations for the importance of agriculture and responsible environmental practices, and provide education and positive experiences through gardening and physical activity.

In Attendance: Jessica Cosenza, Chair; Members: Katye Brier (7pm arrival), Aleel Grennan, Michael Mazloff, Wayne Dodge, Gina Tutela.

Meeting called to order at 6:19

AGENDA

The minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the December 14, 2022 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

APPLICATION 2023 REVIEW AND FINALIZE

- Under Garden Ground Rules- No till gardening methods are encouraged; the water is not potable; animal waste should immediately be removed from garden property and disposed of appropriately.
- Under Suggested Safe Products- italicize *Bacillus thuringiensis*.
- For Composting- advise participants to ask an HCGC member if there are any questions.

Jessica will update, Katye will format and it will be submitted to the Town Manager's office.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM- COLLABORATION WITH WRHS

Aleel is working with the staff of the MakerSpace/Engineering Classes. Those classes will be participating in the design and build of the irrigation system. Expect followup in 2 weeks as right now the WRHS is in mid-term sessions.

BUDGET & GRANT PROPOSAL UPDATES

The Town Budget proposal has been reviewed. Amount of funding has not yet been announced as there are many variables, including the needs of the WRSD. HCGC will have a minimum budget of \$1000 from the town.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council has notified Jessica that our proposal for \$500 to fund "Gardening for All" has been approved. Jessica will notify the Town Manager's office and reach out to the HCC for

confirmation of funding terms.

Michael discussed the Greater NE GrassRoots Foundation Seed Grant opportunity. The GrassRoot Fund Guiding Values discussed. These values and the mission do not match well with our project and committee.

Motion #2

To approve the discontinuation of the application started on the Seed Grant through Greater NE GrassRoots Foundation

Voted and Approved.

Additional Grant opportunities may be available if a collaboration with the High School becomes active. Aleel and Michael will work on drafting an agreement defining the collaboration and showing our active relationship with the school and students.

Michael also reached out to his contact at Holy Cross to review local resources. Consideration of support requests to "Big Box" stores was suggested and discussed. Michael and Wayne would like to explore this further. Jessica, Katye, Gina and Aleel all shared previous experiences that would suggest that the likelihood of "Big" stores providing significant support is small. This may be discussed further once the actual needs are defined. In-kind, private and community group support will be sought and accepted. Katye requested that Jessica ask the Town Manager's office about the use of plot rental fee monies.

DAVIS HILL WINTER/SPRING PROJECTS

There is nothing currently announced at the school for winter after school sessions.

COMMUNITY HARVESTING UPDATES

Gina is available this weekend for bringing items to the food pantry.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

n/a

ADJOURNMENT: 7:27

NEXT MEETING: 2/8/23 at 6:15 in the Starbard Meeting Room.